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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. IV FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1943 No. 28

SECOND TO NONE

MR. AMERY
Secretary of State for India

India has raised a million and a half volunteers. Her divisions showed themselves second to none in all the hard fought battles in the Middle East. She had already played the part of the main arsenal of the Middle Eastern campaigns and is now preparing to play an even greater part in the supply and equipment of forces destined to relieve China and bring Japan's ephemeral conquests tottering to the ground

Mr. AMERY, Secretary of State for India, in a speech at Birmingham on March 12

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THE TASK AHEAD OF US

"We have accomplished the imperative task that lay on us after the fall of Malaya and Burma, to secure India from the threat of a major attack from the east by sea, land or air. This involved concentrating on a tremendous construction programme of aerodromes, communications, anti-aircraft and coastal defence; the organization and training of new forces to replace those we had lost; and much other work. We can say now that India is in a position to meet and defeat any attack against her soil. We cannot yet say that India is safe. She will not be until we can drive away and make powerless that cruel, aggressive treacherous enemy that still threatens our security and our peaceful development and that of our great Allies, America and China, who fight with us in this eastern theatre. That is the task ahead of us. That is where the equipment of which you will see samples in this exhibition will be used for. That is why we still require large number of Indian youth and especially educated youth in addition to those who have already so freely volunteered. It is no light task, but it is an essential one for the future of our civilization."

—GENERAL WAVELL, *in opening the War Services Exhibition in New Delhi, on March 16.*

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FUNDAMENTAL JOB

"The important thing is to take precautions to make sure that this time Germany and Japan—Italy is not a problem of the same size—are never able to start this business again. That seems the fundamental job of statesmanship. I do not think we should adopt the same attitude as last time. I do not think, to take Germany as an example, that we should seek to set up a new Government and then just trust to luck. I think we should take precautions both in respect of Germany and of Japan".

—MR. EDEN, *at a Press Conference in Washington, on March 13.*

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To the Troops!

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Madras War Review

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

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Chiang Kai-Shek on China's Future. GENERALISSIMO CHIANG KAI-SHEK broadcast an appeal to the Chinese people on Saturday (March 13), the eighteenth anniversary of the death of the father of the Chinese Republic, Dr. SUN YAT SEN, and the fourth anniversary of the founding of the National and Spiritual Mobilisation Movement. In his appeal, the great leader of the Chinese people laid emphasis on the need for leading a more austere life in keeping with the war-time needs of today, and said,

> "You have not been painstaking and thrifty enough. You have not struggled hard enough. China's destiny lies in your own hands, and you must, in this time of emergency, redouble your efforts to complete the mission of national rejuvenation."

A similar emphasis on the country's future has been laid by the Generalissimo in his new book, *The Destiny of China.* He says in that book that China's humiliation in the past century was due to moral decay under the Manchu dynasty and obstacles relating to foreign relation and if China was to advance, she must depend mainly on internal reconstruction, for which the Marshal advocates a 10-year plan based on intensive development of communications and heavy industries calculated to put China in the forefront of industrial Powers. It may be pointed out that the Chinese Government, under the leadership of the Marshal, have been devoting a considerable part of their attention towards the development of heavy industries. Eight years ago, they established a body called the "**National Resources Commission.**" This functions as a branch of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, and is entrusted by the National Military Council with the work of developing, operating, and controlling important mining and electrical enterprises. It has already a record of notable works to its credit. It must not be understood that the appointment of the Commission

(*Continued on page* 6)

"Time-Bombs From America"—II

If none of us shirks,
Democracy works.

Russia: the German

THE Russians have evacuated the City of Kharkov on March 15, almost exactly a month after they captured it from the Germans. This is a heavy blow for the Red Army, because the whole Russian line in the south down to Rostov is likely to be affected by this. The Germans have fully exploited the abnormally early thaw on the Russian front, and succeeded in halting the southward drive of the Russians by powerful counter-attacks. It seemed as though the eastern face of the Donetz sector was about to crumble before the Russian thrusts, and the Germans were threatened with closure of their exit from the north. The German plan at that stage was to keep the eastern exit open, while their forces inside the Bend were making a fighting withdrawal. But the temperature rose, the ground softened, and there was a slow-down of the Russian advance all along the line. It was at this time that the Germans, strengthened by reserve divisions and armoured formations, which were perhaps drawn from the Crimea, rushed into the western Donetz area and began a furious counter-offensive in the north-east. Violent and fluctuating battles went on in the area occupied by the Russians last month, south-west of Kharkov; The object of the Germans in launching this fierce counter-offensive, taking advantage of the thaw, was to drive a wedge between Russian forces in the region of the lower Donetz and those advancing from west of Kharkov. For the time being, the Germans have been saved from a catastrophe even greater than that of Stalingrad by halting the Russian drive down to the Sea of Azov. They have, in fact, repeated the same movement which drove Timoshenko across the upper Donetz last summer. The German counter-offensive has outflanked the Russians and succeeded in recapturing Kharkov.

IT was a very rash move, but the Germans risked it. If it had failed another German army would have been pushed forward to join the forces defending the Gorlovka region in a salient which was threatened with envelopment.

Russian Strategy

RUSSIAN strategy after the thaw has set in seems to be to halt the German drive as far as possible and transfer their main offensive efforts to the north, till conditions are favourable in the south. They have achieved substantial successes in wiping out salients around the towns of Demyansk and Rzhev. This is perhaps the beginning of a series of blows which will continue until the thaw reaches the northern sectors. Their plan seems to be to weaken the enemy by engaging him at widely-separated centres, and keep his forces evenly spread along the entire front, so that when the general offensive starts in the summer, they will be able to have better advantages.

WHAT would have happened if the frost had continued for the normal period? The Russians would have swooped down to the Azov coast and brought off an encirclement which would have been even more spectacular than that of Stalingrad. Their disadvantage in being checked at a late stage in their southern offensive lies in the fact that their communications were stretched over an immense area of recaptured territory and they were badly in need of an interval for reorganizing their supplies and reconverting the railroad tracks to the Russian gauge.

Counter-offensive

Caucasus: Defensive Arc

DOWN in the Caucasus, the Germans have succeeded in maintaining a defensive arc opposite the Kerch Straits which was intended to serve as a screen behind which the remaining German divisions were to evacuate to the Crimea. This defensive arc also helps to protect the German army in the Ukraine. It is only when the Russians have the naval base of Novorossisk in their hands and command the Kerch Straits that they would be in a position to launch " combined operations " against the south coast of the Crimea and the Azov seaboard.

IT was expected that the German hold on the Ukraine and Crimea would be threatened, as the 1943 campaign developed, by three converging drives centred on Kharkov, Rostov and Novorossisk. But Kharkov has fallen. Hitler had thrown in vast reserves in the Donbas region. It is reported that the Germans re-equipped eight tanks and five infantry divisions and flung twelve fresh divisions from Western Europe into the battle. A number of towns had to be evacuated by the Russians.

Object of the Germans

THE object of the Germans now seems to be to drive the Russians away from the upper reaches of the Donetz river. This would help them in securing a more or less continuous line of defence running from Kharkov to Taganrog on the Sea of Azov coast, This would postpone the Russian threat to Dnieper.

Russian Difficulties

THE difficulties of the Russians in the battle of Kharkov were the presence of numerically superior enemy forces and the shortage of tanks and heavy guns on their side. This is only to be expected, for the Russians had advanced 400 miles from Stalingrad without the help of convenient roads and railways. The early setting of the thaw added to the difficulties, as reinforcements could not be rushed to the advanced positions in the Ukraine. It seems a matter for surprise, when all these difficulties are taken into account, that the Russians have been able to achieve so much.

AS regards the Central Front, the capture of Vyasma, the great enemy hedgehog guarding Hitler's main base at Smolensk has uncovered eastern approaches to the City which is now being threatened by the Red Army. It is stated that the advanced Soviet units are less than 50 miles away from the place. It is only to be expected that the Germans will concentrate all their energy in defending Smolensk, for the loss of Smolensk means practically the abandonment of their entire position in the Central Front.

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RUNNING COMMENTARY

(*Continued from page* 3)

supersedes or extinguishes, in any way, opportunities for private enterprise. On the other hand, private enterprise is encouraged by the Government. The National Resources Commission is concerned mainly with the development of heavy industries in which the ordinary investor is not generally interested, for heavy industries require large capital and take some time to show their dividends. But a Government waging a long war cannot afford to ignore the development of heavy industries.

* * * *

Liquid Fuel Industry in China. One of the most remarkable successes achieved by the Commission is the development of the liquid fuel industry—in particular petroleum products. About eight or nine years ago, geological surveys were conducted in the province of Kansu for oil fields. The Commission undertook the work of drilling and oil refining. Fourteen oil wells were sunk, three of which yield large quantities of oil. Refineries and three sets of *shell* stills have been set up in this area. Special equipment from the United States to enable production of 64 per cent gasolene has also been erected. Plants for the production of the ethyl-alcohol were erected in Szechwan, Kansu and Sikang. The Szechwan plant, it is stated, manufactures absolute alcohol fit for use in aviation. There is an oil cracking plant in Chungking, which refines even tung oil in such a way as to serve as a gasolene substitute in some special cases.

* * * *

Exploiting Mineral Resources of China. Another aspect of the work of the National Resources Commission is that of explo ting the mineral resources of China. There are three tungsten mines working under the supervision of the Commission in the province of Kiangsi. Various ore units have been established for the improvement of the quality of the tungsten ore. The Commission has set up two steel-making plants, one in Chungking and the other in Kunming. There are also two electrolytic copper refineries. One is in Chungking; it treats fairly crude metal which comes from the north-western parts of Szechwan. It is stated that the work of the refining done here is so satisfactory that the final product attains quite a high degree of purity. The other refinery is at Kunming, and it achieves similar results in the crude copper obtained from the Yunnan area.

Szechwan has also got the Iron Works which were formerly at Hanyang. Soon after the Sino-Japanese war broke out, 40,000 tons of equipment were transferred from Hanyang to the interior of Szechwan in the same way as some of the Russian heavy industries were transferred to the Ural regions. Recently three new blast furnaces were set up, and a special iron smelting plant has been constructed, from which it is hoped to obtain a special type of iron known as " sponge iron," which will be valuable for war industries.

* * * *

From an Agricultural Country to an Industrial Power : China's Achievement. A good deal of work is being done by the Commission in regard to Machine Industry. It established the Central Machine Works in Hunan, but later, this had to be transferred to Yunnan on account of the Japanese war. The Machine Works produce turbo-generator sets, boiler plants, gas engines, machine tools, and even textile machinery. There are two branch factories in Szechwan and Kansu, which supplement the work of the Central Industrial Organisation.

The Commission has established four different factories attached to the Central Electrical Manufacturing Works. Each of the factories specialises in a particular branch of manufacture. One produces wire and cables, another vacuum tubes and lamp bulbs, a third telephones and accessories, and the fourth power machinery. It may be mentioned, incidentally, that the men of the Chinese army are widely using portable telephone sets and radio parts. There is a radio manufacturing works in Kweilin which is eight years old. Broadcasting equipment and radio phone sets are produced only for the Government, but receiving sets and speech-amplifiers are made for general use.

The Commission has, under its control and management, a number of power stations which supply electricity in the south-west and north-west provinces. Recently an extensive hydrographic survey was undertaken, and it is expected

that great results will acrue from it. But the main difficulty at present is with regard to importation of suitable machinery for starting more elaborate electrical works.

It would be seen from the above facts how China, a predominantly agricultural country, has made vast strides in the field of industrial production. China did not wait for some one to come and help her out of her difficulties, which were further complicated by the war. She became acutely conscious of her own position, her limitations and drawbacks, and she resolved to stand on her own feet. This does not mean, however, that outside help has not given a fillip to Chinese industrial progress, for highly industrialized countries like Britain and America have voluntarily given to China aid in her hour of trial, and the Lease-Lend provisions have helped the Chinese war effort to a very great extent. But the point is that China herself realized the needs of the times and took the initiative in building up her industries on a great scale.

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R.A.F.'s unprecedented Bomber Offensive. Last Friday (March 12), British bombers launched a very heavy attack against Essen. During the previous week there was also a 1,000-ton bomb raid. The famous Krupps Works which cover some 800 acres and form one of the largest industrial concentrations in the world, received serious damage. The attack was pressed home with the greatest determination. It is officially described as a "very heavy and concentrated attack"—a phrase which is used only of the biggest R.A.F. raids. During this month (March), there has been a number of heavy attacks on important industrial towns of Germany. The month opened with the 70th heaviest raid on Berlin and the 96th raid on Hamburg. The Luftwaffe was stung into attempting a meagre "reprisal" against London. The R.A.F. raids on Munich, Brannau (the Nazi party headquarters) and other important industrial targets have also caused serious damage.

During the previous month (February), heavy R.A.F. raids were carried out on Wilhelmshaven (four), Lorient (four), Cologne (three), Spezia (two), Turin, Milan, St. Nazaire, Hamburg, Bremen and Nuremberg. The American Air Force mounted heavy attacks on Wilhelmshaven, Dunkirk, Brest and St. Nazaire.

In January heavy raids by the R.A.F. included five on Lorient, two on Berlin, two on Essen and one each on Bordeaux, Dusseldorf, Emden and Hamburg. The American Air Force carried out heavy attacks during this month on Wilhelmshaven, which was the first American raid on German soil, Lille, Brest, Lorient and St. Nazaire. A fortnight ago (March 4) the United States Flying Fortresses opened a chapter in their daylight offensive by attacking an *inland* target in Germany—the famous marshalling yards at Hamburg. The bomber squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Force made their debut in January. On February 24 they carried out a raid on Wilhelmshaven, in which not a single aircraft was lost. This testifies to the skill and efficiency of the Canadian air crews.

* * * *

"The Second Front"—Hitler's Counter-measures. What is the significance of the unprecedented air offensive now being carried out on important towns in Germany and occupied Europe? This will be better understood by a consideration of the strategic background of the air war. The United Nations have not made any secret of the fact that they are going to launch a large-scale offensive in Western Europe some time this year, and the Germans are giving wide publicity to their counter-measures against the great offensive. They are (1) the U-boat offensive, (2) the fortification of the European coastline, and (3) the conscription of labour in the occupied territories. As regards (1) it is obvious that Germany's U-boat warfare is dependent on flow of reinforcements and the efficient working of U-boat repair and supply bases. As for (2) the fortification of Europe is dependent on the efficiency of communications, namely, inland waterways and railways. The third counter-measure, viz., conscription of labour, can be effective only if factories remain intact.

The air attacks of the R.A.F. on key centres are intended to hinder these three German counter-measures.

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The Red Cross

By MRS. G. G. ARMSTRONG

PROBABLY most people heard last week the special appeal which was being made for help in the work being done by the All-India Joint War Organization of the Red Cross and St. John; but many people who talk about Red Cross work have only a very vague idea of what that work actually is. The story of the Red Cross begins about 80 years ago, with a young Swiss doctor named Henri Dunant, who was so much shocked by the terrible sufferings of the wounded after the battle of Solferino, that he determined to do everything in his power to prevent such suffering for the future. So the Red Cross Society was founded, originally and primarily to relieve the sufferings of the wounded in battle; but mercifully battles are not there all the time, and so the work of the Red Cross was extended to cover the relief of every kind of suffering and disaster all over the world, and almost every civilized country has its own national Red Cross Society. The Red Cross symbol has no special religious significance; it commemorates the fact that Henri Dunant was Swiss and that Switzerland is the original home of the Society. The Swiss national flag is the square Geneva Cross, white on a red ground, and so the new Society adopted as its emblem the Geneva Cross, red on a white ground. Under the Geneva Convention, this symbol of the Red Cross is reserved solely for work for the relief of suffering, and may on no account be used to cover any work for the fighting forces. That is why it is laid down that the Red Cross must not be fired upon nor bombed; though the Germans and the Japanese have not respected this convention, the Red Cross symbol is still sacred, as covering only work of mercy and relief.

JOINT WAR ORGANIZATION

But what is this Indian Red Cross work which we are being asked to help, not just for one week, but steadily? Here and in England, two bodies, both devoted to the relief of suffering, have joined hands in the Joint War Organization of the Red Cross and St. John. The training of First Aid and Nursing workers has always been the great task of the St. John Ambulance Association; the Red Cross has also trained nurses, but in India it has always concerned itself primarily with the supply of every kind of necessary equipment for the military hospitals. As the armies of India have expanded, so the need for hospital equipment has increased. There is a standard Government equipment for these hospitals, but every one who has had anything at all to do with hospitals knows what a difference there is between the minimum equipment you can rub along with, and what you need for the comforts of the patients. It is the work of the Red Cross to bridge this gap, not only in India itself, but wherever there are Indian troops, in North Africa, in Iraq or wherever they may be. Many people have a vague idea that Red Cross work is just rolling bandages, and making gauze dressings. Bandages are useful, of course and the hospitals want plenty of them; but they want much more expensive things than that. They want sterilizers for those dressings, electric heaters, invalid chairs, leg cradles, extra pillows and bed-rests, all kinds of crockery, glass and enamel ware; they want recreation for the men during the long weeks of sickness and convalescence, wireless sets, gramophones, books and games. We cannot say "Oh, the bare minimum is enough for them," even though that minimum would have been wonderful for the soldiers of Henri Dunant's day. All our standards for hospitals are higher now, and it is our business, in gratitude to the men who have helped to keep us here safe and unwounded, to see that the hospitals which nurse them back to health are as well equipped as they can be made. The money subscribed to the Indian Red Cross goes mainly to Indian hospitals, since a generous contribution has been received from the British Red Cross to cover the cost of supplies to hospitals for British troops.

SUPPLIES TO PRISONERS

But the war work of the Red Cross is not limited to the equipment of hospitals. The wounded are not the only sufferers in war-time; there are also the prisoners. Ever since Dunkirk, the British Red Cross has been organizing the despatch of supplies to prisoners in Europe; parcels of food and clothing

Feeling our Strength

At this moment when we are beginning to feel our strength, we are beginning to make the enemy feel it too. At the same time, we must assume that a lot of hard work lies ahead. We have a long way to go and setbacks and disappointments are absolutely certain before we can hope to win the war and peace in the East and West.

—MR. EDEN, *at a Press Conference in Washington, on March 13.*

MRS. G. G. ARMSTRONG

have been packed and despatched weekly to all the prisoners-of-war camps, by way of Geneva, the home of the Society and the headquarters of the International Red Cross. Special parcels for Indian prisoners are packed at India House in London and despatched in the same way and of these the Indian Red Cross has, for a long time, been bearing the greater part of the cost. The problem of prisoners in Japanese hands has presented a much greater difficulty; for a long time no supplies at all could be sent and it was even impossible to get any news. The International Red Cross at Geneva, which forwards letters through the Red Cross Postal Message Service to all the enemy-occupied countries in Europe, could not help for lack of co-operation on the Japanese side. Nor could the Red Cross organization for tracing the missing do very much; in Europe it works through Red Cross representatives in the enemy countries themselves, who make the enquiries, but in the Far Eastern countries there are so few Red Cross representatives that little could be done. But even in Japan there is a Red Cross Society, and it is now possible to post letters to prisoners of war, c/o the Japanese Red Cross, Tokyo. It is still not possible to send individual parcels to the Far East, but bulk cargoes of food, clothing and medical stores are now being sent by the National Red Cross Societies of India, America and Britain, and we know that some of these, at any rate, have arrived safely and been unloaded. There are some quarter of a million prisoners, military and civil, in Japanese hands, and to send help to them is a costly business. But we have much to be thankful for in our own continued immunity from invasion, where others have lost everything they had; any shortage of food here is a very small thing compared with their lack of everything. Because we have not suffered the horrors of war, it is incumbent on us all to send a thank-offering to the Red Cross Prisoners of War Fund.

MADRAS'S SHARE

These two main lines of work, supplies for military hospitals and for prisoners of war, are the two great needs for which the present appeal is being launched. What share has Madras been taking in this work? We have not been forgetful of the suffering in other countries; donations have been sent to the Lord Mayor's Fund for Air Raid Victims, the Chinese Red Ross, the Red Cross Aid to Russia Fund. As regards the Indian work, Madras has assumed responsibility for supplies to all military hospitals, casualty clearing stations and Field Ambulances at present stationed in this Province. Ordinarily these would be supplied from a local depot, staffed and financed by the Central Organization; but we have established our own local depot, working in collaboration with the Central Organization and the military authorities are making no call upon the Central Funds in this respect. Hospital supplies made by Madras working parties have also been provided for shipment to Iraq and to Malaya, for which Madras was, until the end, the storage and shipping depot. Madras has also been able to send so far, a little over ¾ lakh to the Central Prisoners of War Fund.

But this is not enough. If you could send a parcel to your own son as a prisoner of war, you would not send him just one parcel and say "That's enough for him." Every time you would have sent him a parcel, send the money to the Prisoners of War Fund; if you send it to the Governor's War Fund earmarked for prisoners of war, it will be forwarded. And if you are a wealthy man, what could be better, as thank-offering for your safety, than to provide a sterilizer or a wireless set for some hospital, or equip for it a recreation room which will bear your name and remind the men there that you have not forgotten what you owe them for keeping you safe? And if you are not wealthy, still you can do something; one place has organized an "Anna a Week Fund," which has brought in quite a lot of money.

The great thing is that we should not be satisfied with a little easy sympathy for the wounded and the prisoners, with being very sorry about it and doing nothing more. There is no excuse for anyone to say "But what can *we* do?" The Red Cross is there as the answer.

—A talk broadcast from All-India Radio, Madras, on March 15.

Traditions of the Soviet Officers Training School

By L. VEPRITSKAYA

YOUNG men in military uniform stand in a line. It is the morning roll-call of the inmates of the school. The Commander calls out a name, and a student replies, "Present!"

"Kokorev," cries the Commander.

"Died the death of a hero," comes the reply followed by a dead silence.

Such is the tradition of one of the oldest Red Army schools organized twenty-five years ago, when the best student replies for the dead comrade, a former student of the school. The students are acquainted with the biographies of their fellow-students killed in action in defence of their homeland. They know their features, for their portraits adorn the walls of the school.

LENIN'S INITIATIVE

The Moscow Red Banner Infantry School, named after the supreme Soviet of R.S.F.S.R., has a long history. It was formed in the year 1917 on the initiative of V. I. Lenin, and then bore the name of the "Moscow Revolutionary Machinegun Training School."

In 1918 the first graduates of the school went to the fronts of the Civil War in Russia. In 1920, twenty-six students were surrounded by the White Guards. They fought until they had spent their last cartridge. The enemy took them prisoner and led them for execution. Standing before a ditch dug in the ground, young soldiers sang the 'International.' The squad was fired at but, wounded, continued to sing. A monument was erected in Kremlin in the memory of the courageous warriors.

They were the first officers of the Revolution to demonstrate to the enemy how heroes, true to their ideals, die.

The school was visited by Lenin. On one occasion he made a speech before a gathering of students. When the great leader of the Russian Revolution died the students stood in the guard of honour and were then detailed to stand on guard at the Mausoleum.

In those days of grief the school was visited by Joseph Stalin. The students will remember for the rest of their lives his speech on Lenin—the mountain eagle.

The disciples of the school fought in the snows of Finland and have distinguished themselves during the present war.

THE HEROES

Lieutenant Mikhail Zvonorev led his company to action six times despite his wound, and did not leave the field of action until he was again severely wounded. He rose to his feet in the heat of the battle and hurled hand-grenades into the midst of the enemy.

He perished, but the enemy paid dearly for his life. The school is proud of him, and many others of its brave comrades.

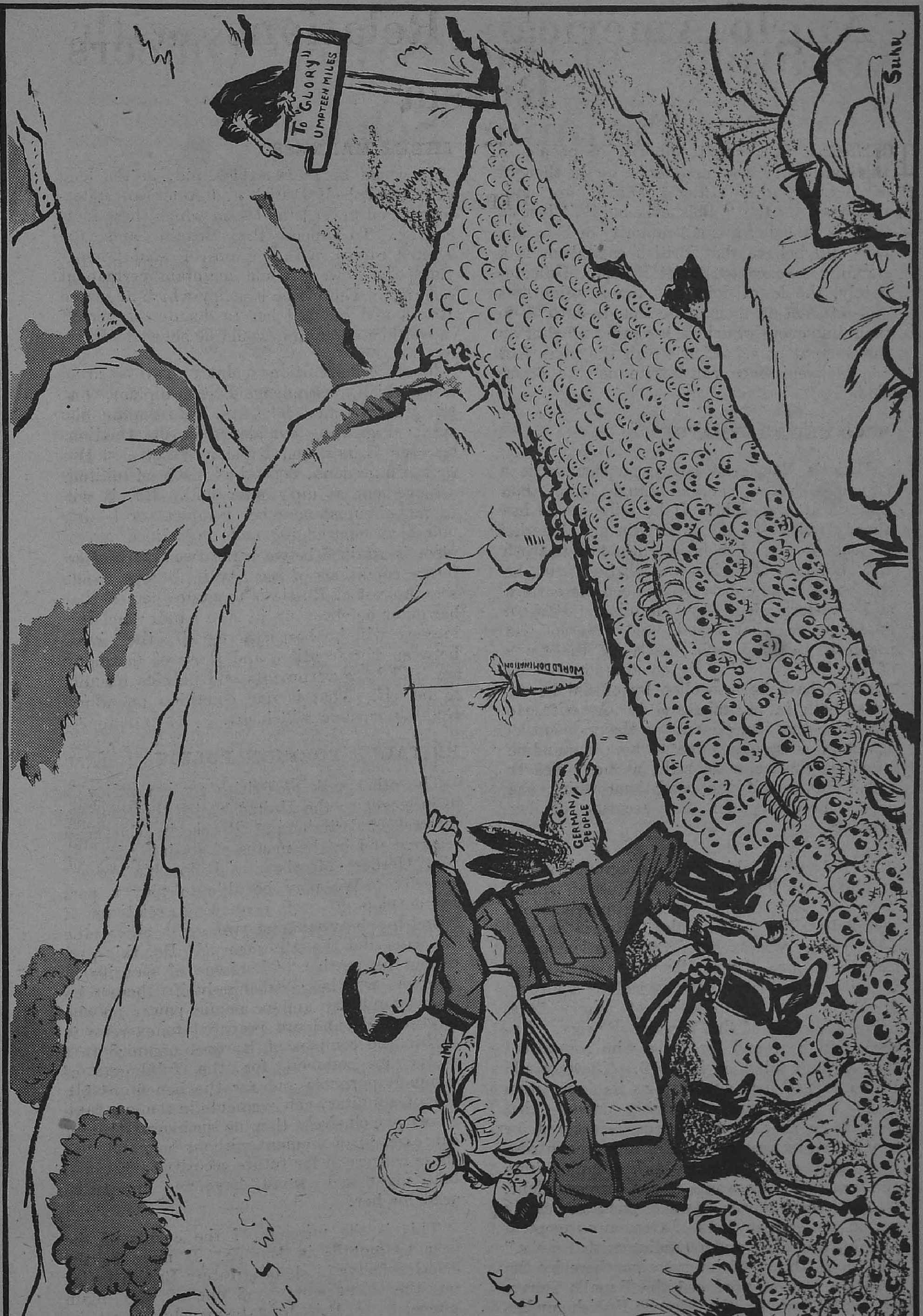
In October 1941, when the Germans were at the gates of Moscow, many of the students and commanders of the school fought in the army of General Rokosovsky defending Moscow. Two German regiments threatened to encircle a certain Russian unit which was under the command of one of the students of the school. The Russians broke through the encirclement after a fierce battle inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. The Germans lost over one regiment of soldiers in killed and wounded, in addition to a large quantity of armaments.

GENERAL RODIMTSEV

The title of "The Hero of the Soviet Union" is awarded for exceptional valour in the execution of duties at the front. None who has studied the defence of Stalingrad will ever forget the name of the hero of the Soviet Union, General Rodimtsev and his guards units. This talented general is also a disciple and the pride of the school. The commandant of the school is the hero of the Soviet Union, Major-General Mladentsov.

The students are studying their hardest to master the most up-to-date weapons of war and the science of warfare. Brought up on the old traditions of the school, they will apply their knowledge on the field of action where they will take up the command of various units.

—(*TASS*).



"THE PATH OF GLORY"!

Anglo-American Relations with Russia

THERE is a small minority of people in this country who, undeterred by the thought of playing into Hitler's hands, are still impressed by the "Bolshevik bogey," just as there is probably a small minority of Russians who still believe that British capitalism is a standing menace to Soviet Russia. Unfortunately, the harm done by these minorities depends, not on their numerical strength or on their influence—which is insignificant—but on the amount of suspicion which the mere fact of their existence can excite on the other side.

TWO-EDGED WEAPON

Hitler's Bolshevist bogey propaganda is a two-edged weapon more cunningly forged than appears at first sight. If he fails—as he has already failed—to induce Britain and America to abate an iota of their determination to crush and obliterate Hitlerism and all its works, he still hopes to sow distrust between his eastern and western foes by fanning Russian apprehensions that Britain and America will presently seek to rob Russia of the fruits of her victory. Hitler's chances of making mischief have been swollen by official hesitations, both in Britain and in America, to recognize that Russia will at the moment of a victory so largely due to her outstanding effort, enjoy the same right as her allies to judge for herself the conditions which she deems necessary for the security of her frontiers.

A study of the historical background serves to illuminate the character of Russian apprehensions and make these apprehensions comprehensible to her allies. Russia as well as Germany was excluded from the last peace settlement, and the corollary was an attempt to build up security to the east of Germany on the basis of a combination of minor States under the aegis of the Western Powers. Excuses can be found for those who committed this cardinal blunder in 1919. There would be no excuse for advocating its repetition to-day. The sequel irrefutably proved that security in that region cannot be assured for any nation by any grouping of minor countries, or by support given to any such grouping from the west. In the words of our correspondent, "..no Western Power, however great, can safely act on the eastern flank of Germany except in genuine and close understanding with Russia." The mere threat of intervention there by the Western Powers produced the Rapallo Treaty of 1922, just as the Franco-British undertaking to Poland given independently of Russia in April 1939, led to a German-Russian agreement in August of that fatal year.

SHEER MADNESS

It would be inexcusable—and, in the long run, suicidal—if British and American statesmen failed to read the lesson which these facts convey. To suppose that Britain and the United States, with the aid of some lesser European Powers, could maintain permanent security in Europe by a policy which alienated Russia and induced her to disinterest herself in continental affairs, would be sheer madness.

These considerations point to two essential tasks which must engage British diplomacy at the present time. The first is to develop the spirit of growing confidence in the relations between Britain and Russia. Success in this task will no doubt depend as much on military achievement as diplomatic skill. But it will in no circumstances be complete or lasting unless an ungrudging and unqualified agreement is attained between the two countries on future conditions of security in Europe. The sole interest of Russia is to assure herself that her outer defences are in sure hands; and this interest will be best served if the lands between her frontiers and those of Germany are held by governments and peoples friendly to herself. That is one condition on which Russia must and will insist.

BRITAIN'S FOREIGN POLICY

The other task of British foreign policy is to interpret to the United States the common interest of Britain and Russia in European security and in the means of attaining it. As Mr. Herbert Morrison said in his recent speech: "We may be able to play a part in developing and cementing relations of friendship between our two great allies—the Russians and the Americans." But this part cannot be passive. The issue of security in Europe will be settled only if those who possess military and economic power on the largest scale and are prepared to exercise it within the confines of Europe, organize that power in common for the fulfilment of common purposes and for the benefit of all. Russia's military achievements in the war have shown conclusively that no such organization can exist for a moment without her, and that those concerned for future security in Europe, both great and small, have an imperative need for her.

This is the message of the events of the past 18 months in Europe. It must be the decisive factor in shaping future British policy on the Continent; and one of the main concerns of British statesmanship must be to reinforce the efforts of American leaders to promote American understanding and appreciation of it.—*The Times*.

Rommel's Immediate Problem

THE whole Tunisian campaign is governed by considerations of time. Rommel and von Arnim are fighting to postpone a situation which can be clearly foreseen, in which every coast of Axis-controlled Europe is exposed to the threat of an Allied landing. They face odds of three or four to one, which cannot be appreciably affected by the inflow of reinforcements by air at the rate of about a thousand men a day.

Such a campaign, in which the commander of an inferior force threatened from several sides attempts to make mobility compensate for lack of numbers by striking rapidly at each of his convergent adversaries in turn, has occurred many times in military history. The difficulty is always to throw adequate power into any one blow because of the never-ceasing anxiety that in the meantime the next opponent to be met will have made his advance irresistible. This was the experience of Napoleon in his brilliant but finally unsuccessful campaign of 1814.

NOT HARD ENOUGH

There are already signs that Rommel, for all his tactical ingenuity, is unlikely to overcome the inherent disadvantage of a similar strategic situation. He struck hard in the centre, but—it now seems—not quite hard enough. On this part of the front Allied forces are for the most part back in their original positions. They have admittedly suffered substantial casualties, but they have also inflicted losses on the enemy which, even if they are smaller, he is much less able to afford. Their plans have been temporarily diverted. But they have not been compelled to relax their pressure upon the eastern plain through which Rommel's precarious communications run; and the capture of Pichon, commanding the road to Kairouan, the thrust to the Faid Pass, and the advance of the Fighting French from Gafsa to the shore of Chott Djerid and the rear of the Mareth Line, all keep alive the threat ultimately to squeeze the enemy between a superior army and the sea. There is good reason to think that Rommel has miscalculated the value of his stroke; for it has cost him considerable price, and has not sensibly eased his position; if he has gained any time, he has probably not gained very much.

On the northern extremity of the battlefield von Arnim's attack has been vigorous and has won territory, but, according to latest Allied announcements, the intensity of the hostile offensive has died down, and the First Army has gained the initiative, although to regain the initiative several miles to the rear of its original positions does not disguise the occurrence of a local setback. Essential roads, it would seem, are still covered, and here too the heavy losses incurred by the enemy without attaining his strategic objectives may be expected to tell severely against him in the long run.

EL ALAMEIN TACTICS

Rommel has decided to strike first in the hope, it may be presumed, of throwing Allied plans out of gear and so delaying rather than preventing their execution. These were his tactics at El Alamein, although they did not then save him from a crushing defeat. The enemy has attempted two successive assaults with large forces of tanks and infantry, both of which are stated to have been effectively held. The phrase would be consistent with the retirement of our lighter forces before the onslaught and unbroken resistance by the main body. From the announcement that the enemy has lost 21 tanks (since known to be 50) without destroying one of ours, it looks as if his armoured forces have been drawn into unequal combat, as once before, with anti-tank artillery with which the Eighth Army is known to be powerfully equipped.

In that kind of fighting he is likely to suffer heavily in a section of his army that has never recovered from the devastation wrought at El Alamein; and even if he can improve the ratio of casualties, the heavier the fighting the more the balance must swing against him. On the other hand, little as he can afford a fight to the finish in the south, he can perhaps even less afford to let the Eighth Army pass quickly through the narrow gap covered by the Mareth defences. Once that pass is forced, he himself will have to lengthen his line facing the south while on his western flank, Allied armies, whose recent local reverses were reverses attributed to lack of concentration, will have an opportunity to contact theirs. His immediate problem, as in breaking off the westward offensive, is once more that of economy of force. He has to decide how much energy he dare expend in his delaying attack in front of the Mareth Line without disproportionately weakening his power for defence of the Line itself. In any event, the Eighth Army, with their thorough knowledge of their adversary and their own strength and their veteran judgment in this kind of warfare, are little likely to be perturbed by any devices remaining at Rommel's command. But they also know that they themselves are fighting for time and time is of the utmost value to the Allied cause far beyond North Africa, and that although victory is certain, no effort can be excessive that will ensure that it is also swift.
—*The Times*, on Mar. 8.

A Road Back to Java

"WE have started to build a road back to Java, and now it needs only to be paved," declares Major-General L. H. Van Oyen, Commanding the Netherlands East Indies Air Force, in an article in the *Daily Telegraph* describing the progress made in the 12 months since Java fell in reorganizing the N.E.I. Air Force.

The Netherlands Air Force units now under his command are stronger and better equipped, he says, than they were when the Japanese swept down to the Dutch East Indies. Some of his men escaped when the gallant but hopeful fight ended and they are taking to the skies again, not only with new equipment but reinforced by a great number of younger men whom they have trained as pilots, gunners, observers and technicians.

General Van Oyen relates that on the fall of Java they withdrew to Australia, where they found nothing but sympathy for the Dutch East Indies. Australian and American forces both offered them all co-operation in reconstructing their air force. But Australia lacked the facilities to train them all, so the United States stepped in.

The Dutch asked for and were given facilities at American bases for training their bomber and fighter crews for future operations. As a result, a Royal Netherlands Military Flying School was set up in May last at the Jackson army air base. Thanks to the magnificent co-operation of the Americans, the Dutch have been able to do a very good job, says the General. They have been given a thorough course of instruction here and at other American bases. A great number received their wings last month. The School will remain at full strength until the middle of the year, after which special classes will be held for those who started late and are still coming in.

Dutch boys are getting better training than they dreamt possible a year ago, continues General Van Oyen. A recent graduation class won its spurs in a mass flight across the United States in January. Flying twin-engined planes, they spent a week in individual and formation manœuvres which took them to Los Angeles and back over unfamiliar ground in bad weather. They will soon be playing their part in one or other theatre of the war where already their comrades have been in action—over the islands north of Australia, over the North Sea.

Ruler of 100 Islands for two months

THIS story is about Jacob Hezekiah, a courageous Aru islander, who led a successful putsch on behalf of Queen Wilhelmina and installed himself as ruler of about 100 islands in defiance of the Japanese Emperor, cables the *Daily Express* Melbourne correspondent.

When the Japanese occupied Java, Hezekiah was teaching in a school in the Aru islands with Dobo—recently plastered by Allied bombers.

At first the Japanese did not bother about Dobo. But one day, 100 husky Quislings in Japanese service—local fishermen from the Kai islands who had fallen for Japanese blandishments—arrived, armed with swords and iron rods, and overpowered Dobo's Dutch colony of four and also the small local constabulary force.

They took the captives in boats and sent them to Ambon. And then the Kais declared themselves as representatives of Japan's "New Order."

Apart from their personal dislike of the Kais, the Aru islanders do not take kindly to the "New Order." Hezekiah straightway held a local "Casablanca conference" with the headmen of a number of villages and lusty Timorese who had settled in the Arus for pearl-fishing. A revolt was planned with Hezekiah as the ring leader.

While the Kais slept the sleep of the unjust one night, Hezekiah and his followers entered their huts, and overpowered them. A few escaped but were rounded up in the jungle within a week.

Some of the Arus were all for summary justice and execution of the Kais but Hezekiah insisted on legal processes. The Quislings were tried and some were executed.

Hezekiah ran the island kingdom for two months to everybody's satisfaction until a new Dutch Controller arrived and Hezekiah returned to his 48 pupils. Peace was soon broken when a destroyer and an armed merchantman one morning stood off Dobo and lobbed shells.

A landing party followed. It proved too formidable for the small Dutch garrison which has been brought by the Dutch Controller. Hezekiah decided that it was time for him to get out as it might have been awkward for him and his wife and seven children, along with the survivors of the garrison. They left the islands by a means which at present must remain secret.

Hezekiah is now working on a Malayan newspaper, published by the Dutch—but he yearns to get back to his school-room.

Hitler's Prestige Falling

MANY Germans in Germany are now denying that they are sympathetic to the Nazi regime, according to travellers arriving in Istanbul, and this is true also of the German minorities living in satellite States like Hungary and Rumania, cables the *News Chronicle* correspondent in Istanbul.

The fact that the Germans are insisting on "German" and not "Nazi" State indicates that Hitler's prestige in Germany is falling. A couple of years ago, German minorities in Hungary and Rumania were fanatical Nazis. Nothing indicates the crumbling of the Nazi domination more than the fact that in Hungary alone 700 Germans recently resigned from the Volksgruppe (National Group) there when asked to join the German army and the Premier declared that any German joining a "foreign army" would forfeit Hungarian citizenship.

Rigorous camouflage measures in Berlin have not encouraged the depressed German nation. Vast masses of green camouflage netting are now stretched over the principal streets and buildings and all artificial lakes have been boarded over to prevent them from giving guidance to R.A.F. planes.

According to these travellers, the thinking public in Germany are now convinced that only a military Government can save Germany and Marshal von Rundstedt is considered as the obvious leader. Apparently, despite all propaganda efforts, Rommel is extremely unpopular with the German masses. He is considered the only man who is 100 per cent pro-Nazi. The Germans still hope that von Papen may yet play the role of future peace negotiator and, according to these reports, his prestige in Germany is high for this reason.

The only Nazi leader still retaining his popularity is Goering who is now given the disagreeable task with Goebbels of breaking bad Russian news to the public. The Gestapo's hold on the country is, however, still immensely strong and anyone daring to grumble or complain against the regime in Berlin is instantly arrested. The Germans still hope for a compromise peace and these hopes are skilfully fostered by Goebbels's propaganda.

Axis Resources Forfeit in Africa

By NORMAN CRUMP

THE military results and possibilities of the entry of the United Nations into French North Africa need no elaboration. I am discussing here the economic implications; in particular what material resources the Axis have lost, and what the United Nations will gain.

First and foremost, French Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia are together one of the chief world producers of natural phosphates. In round figures, these countries between them yield 25 per cent of the world's output, Russia another 25 per cent, the United States 25 per cent more; leaving 25 per cent for everywhere else in the world, the production of Axis-controlled Europe is negligible.

Phosphates form one of the most important group of fertilizers. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that Axis-controlled agriculture and food production has depended upon French North Africa in this vital respect. This source of supply is now denied to the Axis. Nor is it likely that the Axis holds large stocks of phosphates at its disposal, for the intensive efforts already made to provide food for the herrenvolk—though not for their victims—must have weighed against any attempt to accumulate stocks. Nor does it appear that the Axis expected this particular blow.

PRE-WAR IMPORTS

In round figures, pre-war imports of phosphates from French North Africa to the United Kingdom alone were :—

	Tons.	Tons.
From Algeria	40,000	50,000
From Tunisia	200,000	225,000
From Morocco	80,000	90,000
	320,000	365,000

Another important product of French North Africa is iron ore. True, the Axis can draw on Swedish iron ore, as well as that produced in Lorraine and other parts of Europe, but nevertheless their source of supply is now narrowed. Moreover, the advent of winter means that the Swedish port of Lulea in the Gulf of Bothnia will soon be closed, so that all shipments will have to be made from Narvik. The British Navy and the Coastal Command can be trusted to keep a watchful eye on all sea-borne traffic out of Narvik, so that it may well turn out that the loss of French North Africa has come at a most inopportune moment for the Axis.

The Axis was also supplied, through North African ports, with grain, oil-seeds and other vital products. The loss of African oil-seeds, with the vital oils which they contain,

will be a particular source of embarrassment to the Axis in view of the food and feeding stuff position of German-controlled Europe.

NEW SUPPLIES FOR UNITED NATIONS

The next question is, " What will the United Nations gain? " First and foremost, there is the matter of ships. Now large convoys of shipping will no doubt go to North Africa to carry there the United Nations' troops and their supplies. But not all ships will be suitable to carry return cargoes. You cannot load iron ore or phosphates into a troopship.

Yet many of the ships will be able to carry return cargoes. The United Nations' forces and the civil population as well will need coal. A collier can easily bring back phosphates or iron ore. President Roosevelt has promised North Africa lend-lease supplies of food and other necessities. These ships will be able to bring back commodities, such as oil-seeds, of which French Africa has an exportable surplus.

Potentially, therefore, the United Kingdom could recover her pre-war imports of phosphates, and also of iron ore. Pre-war imports of iron ore were :—

	Tons.	Tons.
From Algeria	1,300,000	1,500,000
From Tunisia	450,000	700,000
From Morocco	10,000	25,000
Total ..	1,760,000	2,225,000

Whether she does so depends primarily upon the shipping position—the total demand for tonnage and the possibility of other and nearer sources of supply. But the demand for iron ore is so obvious that it will be a reassurance to know that this additional source of supply is now available.

War Against All Germans

By SAMUEL GRAFTON

SOMEONE asked me whether we ought to consider ourselves as warring against the German people or only their rulers. The answer is that we are warring against all who are warring against us.

Hitler is warring against us, and the German workman making artillery shells is warring against us, and even the sweet German jungfrau, daintily stuffing machine-gun belts is warring against us. Therefore, we have no choice in premises : we are warring against all of them.

But cannot a line be drawn between the German people and their bosses? Yes, it can be, but only the German people can draw it, by ceasing to make artillery shells and ceasing to stuff machine-gun belts. They can draw it, in a word, by revolution. Short of that, a line cannot be drawn.

WRITTEN IN WATER

To give any German workman hope that we will treat him with kindness even if he goes on refilling flame throwers until the armistice, is merely to encourage him to go on refilling flame throwers until the armistice. Shall we draw a line between a man who refills flame throwers while hating Hitler, and a man who refills flame throwers while loving Hitler? That would be a line written in water; the only line we can draw is between the German who refills flame throwers and the German who throws them in his boss' face.

To say to the German people, we " understand, we sympathize, " that even though they seem to be doing their best to try to kill us, we know that their hearts are not really in it, only reduces the pressure for German revolution. It takes away from the average German any responsibility for German policy. It sets him free of consequences in a world which his country has set afire. It makes him the juvenile of history, the only man in the world who is unanswerable for work done by his own hands.

LICENCE TO DO NOTHING

To question whether we should love or hate the Germans has only one fair, accurate answer. We will love them when they make themselves lovable. But it is not liberalism, it is sentimentalism to treat them as incompetents, in which our attitude remains the same no matter what they do. That merely issues them a licence to do nothing.

But what shall a poor German boy do when he is ordered to stuff a dozen Poles into an execution chamber and suffocate them? Shall he commit suicide? Yes, if necessary, and perhaps kill an officer first. There are no velvet cushions on which the German people can sit out the decade.

The whole German people are our enemies until they drop their weapons against us. They do not need to do that on any specific Friday morning. Of course, a revolution needs to be tactically sound, and a premature or spotty revolution can be worse than none. On the other hand, the German people must not be encouraged to hope that they can delay the process until after the war, and that the consequences then will be precisely the same as if they had not delayed it, and had behaved with brilliant clarity and full democratic understanding. Why open an escape valve of

sentimentalism through which the revolutionary process can evaporate? Why treat Germans as if they alone are a people without a problem and without a task?

"YOU MUST DRAW THE LINES"

To the German people we must say: we draw no lines among you. You must draw the lines. We are not interested in what goes on in the backs of your minds; we are interested in overt acts for freedom or against it. We draw no lines in France. The French themselves draw lines between the de Gaulle French and the Vichy French. Shall we be more "understanding" of Hitler Germany than of the Vichy French, and shall we excuse Germans from the racking, terrible decisions which every French peasant has to make?

It is precisely because I believe in democracy that I do not believe in a doctrine of irresponsible peoples. That is Hitler's doctrine even when it is served up with liberalistic whipped cream on it.

Prospects in the I.A.F.

THE Indian Air Force is emerging from a rather troubled infancy into promising adolescence. The future seems to have become much brighter for the force and for its members. Pay is now more commensurate with the educational qualifications needed: the advantages of joining have been made more fully known; disappointment at not having the use of first-class modern aircraft has been dissipated as the flow from factories met urgent demands on the fighting fronts; and it has generally been made understood that official policy is to see that this country has the most efficient air force possible, limited in size only by the number of suitable Indians coming forward to serve in it. Lack of such numbers has lately been the trouble. There has never been shortage of daring youth of India for flying duties, but for ground staff (who have duties of great value to perform) the attractions offered were apparently insufficient to draw the class of men required. The service has now been made more beneficial from the point of view of immediate salary-earning, but satisfactory recruitment will only be obtained when the alterations become widely known.

Livings have to be earned, and for every Indian family able financially to help a son there are perhaps several expecting the son, having finished education, to help the family. The honour of belonging to a force which has already won distinction on active service has not in the past helped a strained domestic budget. Aircraftsmen are now getting from Rs. 60 to Rs. 100 per mensem, N.C.Os. Rs. 75 to Rs. 265, and there is promotion to commissioned rank. Despite the small size of the force about 80 officers have already been obtained from the ranks since 1940. People who, not without reason, have criticized the slow growth of the force should now perform the service of making known the present position. Besides discussing the immediate pay to be earned by young men of requisite physical and educational standards, with an opportunity of attaining any rank those who are good enough to augment the work of air force classes at the universities, recruiting lectures and so on, by personal recommendation, might well touch upon the long-term aspect. Young men in the I.A.F. are given a first-class technical training. Their tests are the same as those of the R.A.F. and are recognized by the Board of Trade.

The recruit has three post-war prospects. First, continuing in the I.A.F. Second, joining the great civil flying services that seem destined to spring up when peace comes. Third, applying the occupation learned to some other sphere of industry where the knowledge, skill and qualifications are the same. The size of the post-war I.A.F. cannot be guessed, nor its opportunities foretold, but of the impending expansion of civil aviation there can be no doubt and it seems obvious that radio experts, metal workers, instrument makers, photographers, electricians and others taught a trade in the force must have an opportunity better than most when their war job is done. The shortage of man-power for India's new arm, and the cause of the corresponding loss of opportunities for India's young men, is largely the fault of parents and others with influence in the matter of choice of career. Their view is too often limited to the civil service and professions. Yet always, and especially after so much destruction and postponement of production of civil requirements the surest way of getting a good living is to be able to make or tend essential things. That dignifying ability, together with service to country, is what is offered by the I.A.F. By April this year the force will be 10 years old. Indians have it in their power to make it become big for its age.

—*The Statesman.*

Diary of the War

ENGLAND AND GERMANY

11th Mar.—Sir Archibald Sinclair, Air Minister, announced the formation of a Royal Air Force Transport Command.

The Royal Air Force swept over the Channel and Northern France.

Mr. Anthony Eden, Leader of the House of Commons, said : " I have no responsibility and no knowledge of suspicions about double-crossing. What I do know is that our Soviet Allies are fully informed of our military position and our military plans."

A small Axis convoy was attacked off the coast of Britanny.

12th Mar.—The Royal Air Force made a heavy attack on the industrial centre of Stuttgart. United States planes bombed Rouen.

According to an American statesman, the State Department had received unconfirmed reports that Hitler was suffering from a complete breakdown.

Nazi planes bombed London area. Five raiders were shot down.

13th Mar.—Two enemy fighters were destroyed by the Royal Air Force off in south-west coast.

The Royal Air Force raided Essen. Krupps works were damaged. Fires were started in Munich. Engineering works near Liege were also attacked.

Doctor Benes, President of Czechoslovakia, at a meeting in London marking the fourth anniversary of the occupation of Prague, said : " We are in the final period of the war. After four years of war, Germany to-day stands on the brink of collapse."

14th Mar.—The Royal Air Force laid mines in enemy waters. Flying Fortresses attacked targets in Western France.

15th Mar.—The Royal Air Force bombed the Ruhr. American bombers raided Amiens.

16th Mar.—Two large Axis ships were torpedoed off Terschelling on the Dutch coast.

17th Mar.—Two enemy vessels were sunk at Florel harbour in Norway.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

11th Mar.—Mr. Litvinov, Soviet Ambassador to United States, said : " Although much the largest part of supplies had of course to be provided by the Soviet Union itself, the supplies received through Lend-Lease had been an enormous help."

The State Department disclosed that Japan had refused a further exchange of prisoners on April 1.

Dr. T. V. Soong, Chinese Minister for Foreign Affairs, speaking at Washington, said : " Lend-Lease aid to China has not yet been nearly as great as the situation requires."

Mr. Sumner Welles, Assistant Secretary of State, declared that Admiral Standley, United States Ambassador in Moscow, assumed personal responsibility for the remarks he had made that Russia had withheld the facts of American aid.

President Roosevelt presented to the Congress recommendations for a " Beveridge Plan " for unemployment pay, old-age pensions, health insurance and social services.

12th Mar.—The Senate approved the extension of the Lend-Lease Act to June 13, 1944. Russia received help from the United States under Lend-Lease totalling £456,500,000 during the quarter ending March 1. This was £120 million more than what was sent to Australia, New Zealand, China and India combined.

The demand for the establishment of a Supreme War Council as the only solution to avoid friction among inter-allied Nations was made by the *New York Herald Tribune*.

13th Mar.—Mr. Anthony Eden, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, arrived in Washington—a diplomatic sequel to Casablanca. Informed sources regarded Mr. Eden's visit as opening a new era of war-time diplomacy.

14th Mar.—Mr. Anthony Eden met President Roosevelt and the Australian, Canadian and South African Ministers.

Fifteen German members of a Berlin-controlled underground movement in New York were seized by G-men.

15th Mar.—Mr. Anthony Eden conferred with Colonel Knox, Naval Secretary, and Mr. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State.

16th Mar.—A proposal for a post-war international police force was introduced into the Senate by Senator Bell as the only practical means of " controlling the plague of war."

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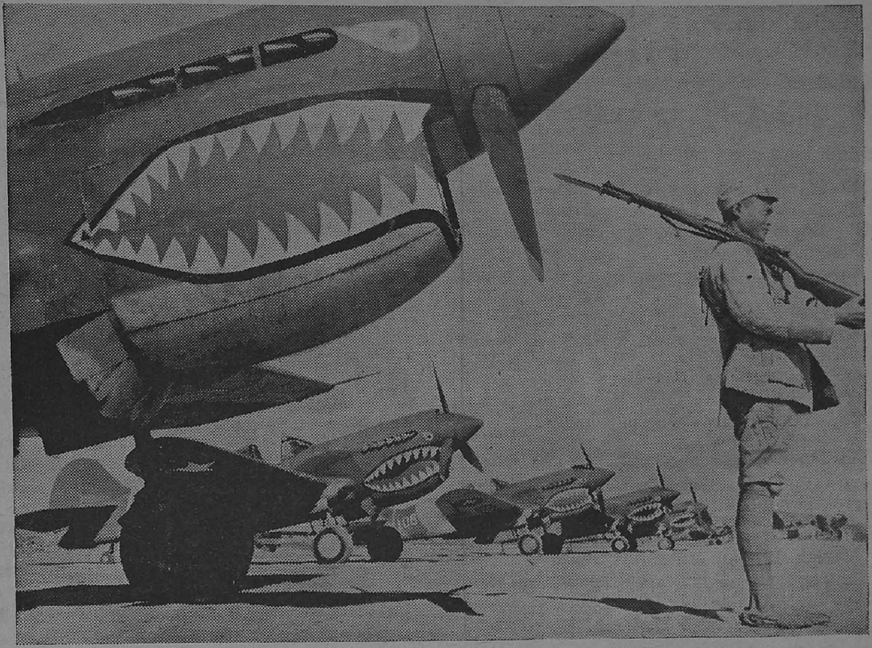
INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

11th Mar.—The Royal Air Force bombed Akyab.

12th Mar.—United States Air Force attacked the Mingaladon airfield north of Rangoon. The Royal Air Force attacked a Japanese position at Donbaik.



U.S. AIRMEN BATTLE JAPANESE IN CHINA—A Chinese soldier stands guard over a line of shark-nosed U.S. fighter planes at an air base " somewhere in China " manned by U.S. pilots and ground crews. The American pursuit planes have a 12 to 1 victory ratio over the Japanese.

—U.S. Office of War Information photo.

13th Mar.—The Royal Air Force attacked Wuntho, a station on the Shwebo-Katha line.

14th Mar.—United States Air Force bombers attacked Pazundaung bridge and the Mahlawagon railroad yards in Rangoon.

15th Mar.—The Royal Air Force bombed Mandalay and Akyab. Heavy fighting broke out in the Rathedaung sector. Objectives in Donbaik area were also attacked.

16th Mar.—Field Marshal Wavell said: " We have accomplished the imperative task that lay on us after the fall of Malaya and Burma to secure India from the threat of a major attack from the east by sea, land or air."

The London *Times*, commenting on the Japanese counter-stroke in Burma, said: " Whatever the result, it does not seem over-optimistic to say that days of acute anxiety for the safety of India are over."

Fighting continued north of Rathadaung. Japanese airfield at Toungoo was bombed.

17th Mar.—Many Japanese were killed and wounded and a considerable amount of equipment captured north-east of Htiswe.

Mr. William Phillips, President Roosevelt's Personal Representative in India, visited Madras.

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

11th Mar.—The capture of Gafsa by Allied forces was imminent. General Leclerc's forces stormed and captured the important mining centre of Metlaoni.

It was announced that American casualties in the recent fighting in Tunisia numbered 2,242.

Capt. Randolph Churchill, writing to the *Evening Standard*, called for a truce in the campaign of recrimination against events and personalities in North Africa. " If pushed to extremes, such a policy would create the perfect condition of a bloody civil war in France as soon as she is free."

12th Mar.—Axis troops attacked without success Allied position west of Sedjenane.

General Montgomery, in an interview given to the Soviet News Agency, stated: " The Germans will not be able to change the general military situation. Our preparations may appear slow to many people, but because of that the blow will be powerful and decisive."

13th Mar.—Shipping and harbour installations at Palermo were attacked by the Royal Air Force.

Canadian corvettes in the Mediterranean sank an Axis submarine.

14th Mar.—Axis positions south of the Mareth Line were pounded. An Axis attack on a British position north of Ben Arada was repulsed.

15th Mar.—According to the Algiers Radio, General Giraud told General Catroux that he was ready to receive General deGaulle. General Giraud added: "The moment for the union of all Frenchmen of good faith has arrived."

16th Mar.—The Eighth Army wrested the initiative from the Germans in the Tamara sector. A slight advance was made in the Sedjenane sector. General Montgomery completed his re-grouping movement.

17th Mar.—According to the Algiers Radio, General deGaulle was on his way to meet General Giraud.

The Eighth Army launched an attack on the Mareth Line.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

11th Mar.—The Nazis threw powerful Panzer units to break into Kharkov, the great tractor city of the Ukraine. Russian troops captured Byelini Smolensk region. The Red Army was within 10 miles of Vyasma.

12th Mar.—The Russians took Vyasma and converged on Smolensk. The Germans claimed to have broken into Kharkov.

Writing in *Das Reich*, Goebbels said that the German losses in the east were high enough to cause difficulties and "We have not yet reached the summit."

13th Mar.—Germans succeeded in driving nearer to Kharkov. All German attempts to cross the Donetz below the city failed. The Russians continued to advance on Smolensk and pierced enemy defences.

14th Mar.—To the north of Kharkov, the Red Army was forced to withdraw to new lines at several points.

According to the military commentator of *Red Star*, Italian losses on the Russian front were 60,000 killed, 69,000 wounded and 46,000 taken prisoner.

15th Mar.—The Moscow Radio announced that Kharkov was evacuated by the Soviets.

According to the Vichy Radio, Goebbels admitted that Germany was "losing the best of her blood on the Eastern front."

16th Mar.—The Russians evacuated Kharkov. In the Smolensk region, they occupied the town of Kholmzhirkovski.

17th Mar.—According to the German Radio, Hitler was in a place near the front-line in Russia. The German counter-offensive south of Kharkov was held.

The Moscow Radio told the German people: "In three months of Soviet offensive, your army has lost one million men, of whom 300,000 are prisoners."

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

13th Mar.—M. Falin Rifki Atay, leader of the Turkish Press Delegation to India (just returned to Turkey), declared that from the Khyber Pass to Aleppo, it was obvious that the prestige and power of the British Empire had been reinforced.

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SHIPPING

11th Mar.—The British submarine P-311 was lost.

12th Mar.—A German supply ship was torpedoed in the Straits of Dover.

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VICHY AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

11th Mar.—The Stockholm Radio said that a bomb thrown aboard a German transport ship at Trondheim damaged it severely.

Over 300 separate guerilla operations took place in France during the period from December 20, 1942, to January 20, 1943.

The Chinese routed the Japanese on the west bank of the Salween. It was disclosed that 53,000 Japanese troops were killed in China during 1942.

13th Mar.—The Vichy Radio announced that French main railway lines were to be guarded against guerillas.

Marshal Petain was reported to be ill.

14th Mar.—General Giraud, in a speech at Algiers, gave the people of France a solemn pledge that in everything he was doing in North Africa, he was acting as trustee under the laws of the French Republic.

16th Mar.—Germany gave M. Laval an ultimatum that unless he sent another quarter-million workers to Germany within the next three days, the German army will be called in to supervise the enrolment of workers throughout France.

The Savoyan guerillas rejected the ultimatum. General Cartier organized the "revolt."

THE FAR EAST

11th Mar.—It was revealed that the Japanese were arresting and interning German missionaries in the countries they had occupied in the Far East.

Twenty-two Japanese planes which attempted to attack Guadalcanar were driven off.

12th Mar.—Japanese bases in the Solomons were bombed.

13th Mar.—Allied aircraft bombed the enemy airfield at Lakun. Japanese planes attacked American positions in Guadalcanar.

14th Mar.—General Tojo arrived in Nanking to discuss military, political and economic questions with the Chinese "puppet" President, Wang Ching Wei.

According to the American Navy Department recapitulation of the naval losses in the Solomon Islands, 179 Japanese vessels were sunk or damaged as compared with United States losses totalling 39.

Direct hits were obtained on a Japanese 8,000-ton transport and a 4,000-ton freighter off Wewak.

15th Mar.—It was revealed that the Japanese were massing a new invasion Armada off the Dutch East Indies. United States army planes destroyed a small Japanese vessel in the Solomons and damaged Japanese planes at Kiska in the Aleutians.

Eight Japanese columns were in full retreat on the Yangtse river front.

The Japanese Radio stated that Japan would hand over her concessions in China to the (Japanese-controlled) Nanking Government on March 30th.

According to the German Radio, the Japanese people were being warned to prepare for air raids from Allied bases in China.

16th Mar.—To the intense annoyance of the Germans, the Japanese withdrew numerous troops from Manchurian zones nearest to Russia.

Forty-nine Japanese planes raided Darwin of which 2 bombers and 12 fighters were shot down. Only slight damage was done to Port Darwin.

Japanese positions in Vila and Munda were bombed.

17th Mar.—A Japanese convoy in the vicinity of Aru Island was forced to retire. One Japanese destroyer and 3 ships were sunk by United States submarines in the Pacific.

RETREATING STRATEGY

THEME OF TOKYO BROADCASTS

SPOON fed for years on a diet of "military invincibility," and finding news of recent Axis reverses somewhat indigestible, the Japanese people are now being given a "tonic course" in the principles of Kotai Sentai, Japanese for Retreating Strategy.

Withdrawals in Burma and the South-West Pacific having proved hard to swallow, a military spokesman a few days ago attempted to sugar the pill in a broadcast talk on Kotai Sentai over Tokyo Radio. His remedy for national dyspepsia was as follows :—

Retreats are something which always happens in war operations. In attacking the enemy, one part of the forces fights at the key position on the furthermost front, while the main forces remain far behind.

When found necessary, and in accordance with the progress of the war, these forces at the front retreat to different, or rear positions. Such strategy is called retreating strategy.

It is this strategy which we are now carrying out.

RAMA DEEPA

RAMA DEEPA is a new device for burning vegetable oils or kerosene for lighting. It is simple in construction and easy of manipulation. Vegetable oil lamps hitherto produced have two oil tanks, one above the other with a feeding pipe to supply oil to the wick. They are not suitable for the use of kerosene oil as fuel.

Rama Deepa is a dual oil lamp and therefore its purchaser will be no loser by his investment, even if kerosene comes back into common use. It covers a wide range of lighting devices to serve all purposes—hurricane lantern, table light, platform (railway)light, bed lights and naked flame 'buddi'.

Since some of the models of Rama Deepa are above the means of the poorer classes, the National War Front, Madras, have arranged with Messrs. Rama Deepa Work s Dowlaishweram (East Godavari District) to manufacture, on a large scale, three of the cheaper varieties of Rama Deepa lights, the bed room lantern, the bed light and the naked flame light.

The stamp of the National War Front will be imprinted on each lamp, and retail prices are fixed for the present at one rupee (bed room lantern), nine annas (bed light) and two annas (naked flame light).

A cheap lighting device alone will not wholly solve the problem for the poor villager. Availability of the illuminant and the cost of lighting have to be taken into consideration. With this end in view, various vegetable oils have been tried with the above lamps and the results are given below.

The capacity of the oil tank in the bed lantern and the bed room light is 3 ounces and the duration of light is noted below in the case of each oil :—

3 oz.	of groundnut oil burns for	..	21 hours.
,,	pungam (karanji) oil	..	20 ,,
,,	margosa oil	..	24 ,,
,,	mahwa (Ippa, Illuppah) oil.		20 ,,
,,	tobacco oil	..	21 ,,
,,	mustard mixed with 25 per cent groundnut.		

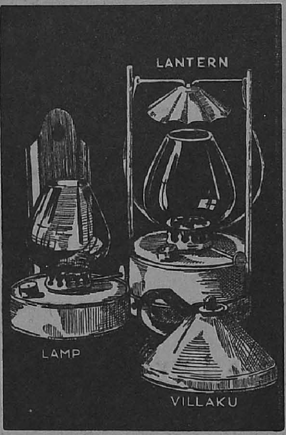
Mahwa (Illuppah) oil cannot be used in winter as it congeals like coconut oil.

Margosa oil burns longest, and, assuming that the price of one viss (3 lb.) of any oil is one rupee, costs the user about one anna per week at the rate of 3 or 4 hours per day, making a monthly lighting cost of about four annas.

With all the above oils, Rama Deepa lights will burn continuously for about eight hours without adjustment of the wick; the flame dies out only when the last drop of the oil is consumed.

The National War Front hopes that the people of South India will use the vegetable oil available in their locality for their lighting and thus save kerosene for essential purposes. They will thus make a substantial contribution to the self-sufficiency drive, since indigenous, and not imported, products will thus be used for essential needs.

★

THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT
RAMA DEEPA LAMP


BEDROOMLAMP Rs.1-
BEDROOMLANTERN as.9
VILLAKU as.2

NOTE
3 OZS. OF GROUNDNUT OIL (COST AS.1) WILL GIVE 18 HOURS OF LIGHT. THEREFORE, AT 3 HOURS PER NIGHT A POOR FAMILY WILL HAVE LIGHT FOR A MONTH FOR ABOUT AS.5.

DISTRIBUTORS, SRIPADA NARASIMHA BROS. COCANADA

BURN VEGETABLE OIL
SAVE KEROSINE FOR THE WAR

Villagers' Railway Protection Scheme

1. *Patrol strength.*—All railway lines will be patrolled at the rate of four villagers per mile per 24 hours. Villagers should not patrol singly at any time, and at night the patrols should be strengthened. These objects can be achieved if the patrol unit is fixed at 2 miles with eight men. Arrangements for shifts, etc., are left to the discretion of District Magistrates. (A possible distribution of the eight men per unit of two miles is as follows: two men for a day shift from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and three men for each of two shifts from 4 p.m. to mid-night and from mid-night to 8 a.m.)

2. *Recruitment.*—The headman of each village through which the railway runs will prepare a roster of villagers suitable for this duty. He may, if necessary, be assisted by a committee of village elders. (This point is left to the District Magistrate's discretion). The Tahsildar accompanied by the Sub-Inspector will visit each village as soon as possible and inspect the men whose names have been registered.

It will be the headman's business (assisted by his committee if one is appointed) to post men for actual duty from this roster according to the mileage of line in his village.

NOTE.—(1) The length of line in each village will not of course be exactly two miles or a multiple of two miles. District Magistrates must fix patrol points at their discretion, observing village limits and the two-mile limits as closely as practicable.

(2) In some cases, although the railway line will actually run through a particular village, the boundary of an adjoining village may approach very closely to the line. In such cases it would be as well to associate this adjoining village with the patrols in order that the principal village should not seek to evade responsibility. The roster may be prepared from both villages, and the adjoining village should be represented (with the headman as one of the representatives) on the committee which might be made compulsory in such cases.

3. *Pay.*—Villagers will be paid for patrol duty at the rate of Rs. 15 per man per month. This will work out at 8 annas per turn of duty. If there are 4 miles of line in a village, requiring 16 men, the headman will be paid 16 × 15 = Rs. 240 at the end of the month, and he will disburse this at the rate of 8 annas per shift.

4. *Inspection.*—Close and frequent inspection is necessary if the scheme is to be a success. Two Special Revenue Inspectors should be appointed for each district for inspection purposes. Their hours of duty and the length of line for which each is responsible will be fixed by the District Magistrate. They will move up and down their length of line as frequently as possible, railway trollies being used if the railway authorities can arrange this. The main business of the Special Revenue Inspectors will be to see that the patrols are actually on duty on the line; and if they find a patrol unit unpatrolled they will at once proceed to the village and set the matter right. They can also check the village rosters and the turns of duty arranged by the headmen, and also settle any arguments about pay.

In addition to this special staff, these villager-patrols should be checked as frequently as possible by railway police, station police and revenue subordinates in the ordinary course of their tours.

5. *Equipment.*—Each patrol should carry a small flag as an identification mark. Flags should be white in colour and crossed diagonally with a red stripe. The men may carry bamboo sticks; there is a shortage of police lathies and these cannot be provided. At night patrols should carry a lantern or country torch. District Magistrates are authorized to provide this equipment and to make a small kerosene allowance to each village, the amount to be fixed at their discretion.

6. *Duties of patrol men.*—Any untoward incident should be reported to the police talayari patrol at once. In addition, one of the two patrol-villagers will run to the village to summon assistance if sabotage is being attempted. (This is an additional reason for the men not patrolling singly.) The villagers should arrest miscreants or suspicious characters and take them to the nearest police station.

7. *Shed construction.*—In some cases the actual village site may be some distance from the railway line. In such cases District Magistrates are given discretion to construct a shed near the railway line which can be used as a camp headquarters by the patrol-men.

8. *Responsibility.*—The value of the scheme depends entirely on the idea of enforcing village responsibility, with the collective fie as the ultimate sanction. This should be made plain to the villagers on the following lines:—

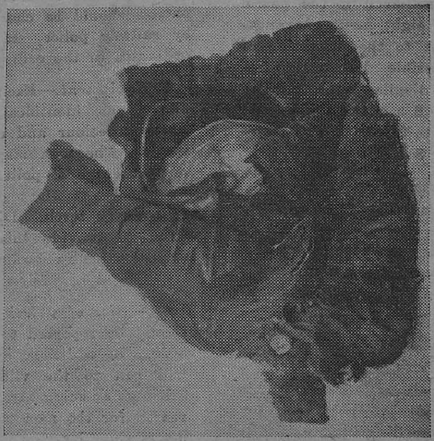
Government will hold you responsible if your railway line is damaged and will impose a fine on you. To help you to discharge this responsibility, Government will pay for X men of your village to guard the line. You are responsible for selecting these men and for seeing that they do their guard duties properly. If on inspection one of your patrolmen is found absent or neglecting his duty, a black mark will be noted against your village and this black mark will be taken into account when Government fix your collective fine if any damage is caused to your railway line.

9. *General.*—District Magistrates are given full discretion within the general framework of the scheme; and in practice they may provide for an intenser rate of patrolling if they think it necessary in particularly unsettled areas or at particularly disturbed intervals.

Grow More Food—in Your Gardens!

Leaf and Stem Vegetables

CABBAGE



Brassica obracea var, Lat.; *Family cruciferae*; *Motta gos,* Tam.; *gosu gadda,* Tel.; *Mutta kos,* Mal.

Description.—A small plant in which only a few of the lower leaves open out; the upper ones overlap one another and remain unopen, forming a globular mass.

Propagation.—Usually from seeds; some varieties produce auxillary shoots, which when planted give rise to new plants.

Plains: August to December.

Hills: March to August.

Cultivation.—Cabbage is grown abundantly at high elevations; but they can be grown on the plains as well when great care and attention is given to their cultivation.

(The picture is that of a cabbage grown in Madras.)

A rich well-drained soil is necessary for cultivation of cabbage. The seeds are sown just below the soil in a well-prepared nursery bed under shade. When the seedlings are 4–5 inches in height, they are transplanted in rows 2 feet apart, being spaced about 1½ feet in the rows; the seedlings are then shaded for a few days. Liberal application of well-rotted manure to the soil produces good results. The heads are usually ready for cutting within 3–4 months.

Uses.—A very popular vegetable, eaten boiled, and also used in the preparation of curries.

General analysis.—Water 92·6 per cent; mineral 0·6 per cent; protein 1·4 per cent; fat 0·1 per cent; fibre 0·8 per cent; carbohydrates 4·5 per cent; calories per lb. 125; calcium 0·071 per cent; magnesium 0·021 per cent; phosphorus 0·042 per cent; iron 0·0007 per cent; vitamin A (traces); vitamin B—I.U. per gms. 25; vitamin C mgm. per 100 gms. 62·5.

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